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Letter from Thomas G. Clemson to Elias Baker, 1854 January 16

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when made of that wood. The one
I had you recollect was made of
Tillam a kind of Linden.

I feel quite anxious to see these
objects of art & if I do not mistake
you will have the finest furniture
in the country & equal to any thing
in the world. They will always be
objects of taste, always admired never
out of fashion & if well cared for will
last until eternity, bell rings -

Oh and all well I being the richest
of the family I am now better than
I was tho I have suffered a great
deal lately -

All join in love to all -

Yours affectionately,
Thos. J. Benson

Eliza Benson Recd -

The Home Bladenburg Md
January 16th 1854

My dear Sir

I have just received a letter
from Bouquet, dated January 18th by which
I am informed that your furniture is ad-
vancing but that it will require four
months (from that date) to finish the
work - He tells me that all his
workmen (thirteen) are engaged upon
your furniture - He says that if I desire
he will send me those prices which are
finished (more than half) but I think
as I stated to you before that I will
send Bouquet & expense if they all
could together, & besides the risk will
me much less if they could during
the spring & summer for then there
is not much severe weather. So
when I receive your answer I will
write to that effect -

Among other things which he tells
me he says that he knows of a
chock in Bouquet (same kind of work

of mine) now in the possession of a person
who needs money. It is not made for
the mantle piece, but to be placed
on the floor, & is about six feet high.
He says that he is informed that it
will go a whole year with but one
winding - & that it is the most
beautiful thing of the kind he
ever saw price 1200 francs.

(Two hundred & fifty dollars) When I left
Belgium I told him to look out for a
work box of Boule for Mr. Clemens
to sit on a table in the saloon - He
has purchased one for me cost 90 frs
& says there is another very similar
which he can get - now if you
want such an article for Aunt
or your daughter let me know &
I will tell him to purchase it for you
& it can come out with the other
furniture - Boule work you know
is not made now & it is only a chance
that they can be had.

Write you about these things, thinking
perhaps that they might suit you

If you want them write me without
delay as I will await you arrival before
writing to Belgium -

I have been expecting you this way
& hope you will come & give us
your advice about many things
which I have to do - I find farming
a pretty expensive business - This
morning and the ground is covered
thick with snow in chert - yet this climate
is infinitely superior to that of Phila.
or New York -

He had received the first remittance
of \$5000 - but says nothing about the
second & I therefore conclude that there
was not time for him to have
received the second -

From what he says & from what
I hear from an other friend he is
making you a superb collection
of pieces & is giving no pains - The
looking glass frames - will be of Oak
also - He says they require much work
but they are more lasting & handsome